

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application and have been restricted. The Examiner states that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: using the heat treatment to decompose the flocculant, to sinter, to react types of particulate solids to form new phases or solid solutions, to react the bulk and particulate solid to form new phases, to react the bulk and the particulate solid to form a solid solution, or to react the bulk and particulate solids to achieve a concentration gradient. Applicant elects the species of the heat treatment to react types of particulate solids to form new phases, as recited in Claim 13, without traverse.

The Examiner further states that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: the method of Example 1 or the method of Example 2 or the method of Example 3. Applicant elects the species of the method of Example 1, where the first and second solvents are water; the soluble polymer is water soluble polymer; particulate solid particle is TiO_2 ; and the bulk material is LiCoO_2 , without traverse.

This election is being made without prejudice to Applicants' rights with non-elected species, including the right to file divisional applications thereon. Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested. Consideration and allowance of the claims are also requested. The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to this office action.

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If there are any charges with respect to this amendment, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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